

BOOK REVIEWS

DAVID A. SLEPER and JOHN M. POEHLMAN. 2006. **Breeding Field Crops, Fifth Edition.** (ISBN 0-8138-2428-1, hbk.). Blackwell Publishing. 2121 State Ave., Ames, IA 50014-8300, U.S.A. and 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK. (**Orders:** 515-292-0140, 515-292-3348 fax 1-800-862-6657, www.blackwellprofessional.com, orders@ames.blackwellpublishing.com), \$84.99, 392 pp., 448 b/w illustrations and photographs, 7" × 10".

This book is intended for beginning students of plant breeding as well as more advanced students and professional plant breeders. The first edition was published in 1959, "and since that time it has been one of the most popular plant breeding textbooks used throughout the world." One of the most significant developments in plant breeding since edition 4 (1995) has been incorporation of "translational genomics"—using "tools developed by molecular biologists, such as DNA markers, ... to map and tag important plants traits on the genomes of many of our crop plants."

Section I: What is Plant Breeding?

Section II: The Genetic Basis of Plant Breeding

Section III: Tools of the Plant Breeder (including chromosome number, mutation, fertility-regulating mechanisms, biotechnology)

Section IV: Methods in Plant Breeding

Section V: Germplasm Resources for Breeding Crop Plants

Sections VI through IX: Applications: Breeding field crops that are self-pollinated or vegetatively propagated; Utilizing hybrid and other miscellaneous breeding procedures

Section X: Maintenance and Seed Production of Improved Cultivars

—Guy Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4068, U.S.A.*

ROBIN WHITE. 2006. **Daphnes: A Practical Guide for Gardeners.** (ISBN 0-88192-752-X, 978-0-88192-752-8, hbk.). Timber Press Inc, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax.). \$34.95, 232 pp., color photos, 7" × 9".

The book is written from the author's 30 years of experience in propagating and growing daphnes, both as a commercial horticulturalist and as a home gardener (in his "daphnetum") in southern England. It is arranged in seven chapters: History, Taxonomy, and Morphology; *Daphne* Species; *Daphne* Hybrids; Propagation; Cultivation; Pests and Diseases; and Garden Use. Nearly half of White's book is given to discussion of 36 species, each with interesting comments on cultivation and description and with subheadings for "propagation" and "botanical variants" and/or "named clones." Various cultivars of the two North American adventives, *D. laureola* L. (native to North Africa and Europe) and *D. mezereum* L. (native to Central Asia and Europe), are included. Excellent color photos of many of the species and variants accompany the text.

Daphne includes 70 species (monographed by J. Halda in 2001) mainly found in Europe and temperate and subtropical Asia. They are deciduous and evergreen shrubs, from prostrate and mat-forming to erect and up to 5 meters tall. Flowers are 4-petaled and vary from creamy white to pink, purple, lilac, yellow, and green. The author notes that "if they are given the right environment and treatment, daphnes are long-lived plants worthy of a place in every garden. What is true is that daphnes are unforgiving of mismanagement ... [but] ... To most of us, growing daphnes is a challenge which makes success that much sweeter."—Guy Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4068, U.S.A.*